

PACIFIC WEST REGION ELECTRONIC Memorandum

File Code

N16 (PWRO-RD)

To: Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area

From: Associate Regional Director, Operations and Education, Pacific West Regional Office

Subject: Federal Panel Recommendation to the General Superintendent on Proposed Rulemaking for Pet Management at Golden Gate National Recreation Area

In January, 2002, The National Park Service published an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) in the *Federal Register* seeking public response to options presented, questions, and ideas for a rule to manage off-leash pet use in Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). In August and September, 2002, a panel of senior federal officials was convened to review the extensive public comment, other technical information and pertinent National Park Service directives, policies and regulations. The purpose of the panel was to recommend to you whether the park should proceed to rulemaking or whether the present regulation – requiring pets to be on leash in all GGNRA areas where they are allowed – should remain in effect.

Attached is the subject report that summarizes the results of our deliberations. We have concluded that off-leash dog walking in GGNRA may be appropriate in selected locations where park resources will not be impaired if the standards for appropriate use (as defined in NPS policies and regulations) can be met and if public safety incidents and public use conflicts can be appropriately managed. The panel further recommends that the park pursue both rulemaking and comprehensive planning for pet management to address suitable locations and proper management strategies.

I would like to thank the Co-Chair for the panel, Mr. Woody Smeck, Acting Superintendent, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and the other panel members: Mr. Jacob Hoogland, Chief, Office of Environmental Quality for NPS, Mr. James Shevock, Associate Regional Director for Resources, Partnerships and Stewardship in the Pacific West Regional Office, and Mr. Jay Wells, Chief Ranger for the Pacific West Region.

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We hope you will find this report useful as you continue to address the issues of pet management at GGNRA.

/s/Martha K. Leicester
(Signed original on file)

cc:

Woody Smeck, Acting Superintendent, Santa Monica Mountains NRA
Jacob Hoogland, Chief, Division of Environmental Quality, WASO
Jim Shevock, ARD, Resources, Partnerships and Stewardship, PWR
Jay Wells, Chief Ranger, PWR

Attachments

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